

Remarks
Sandra Clark, Charge d'Affaires a.i
Self-Help and DHRF Grant Signing Ceremony
Bissau Liaison Office
Tuesday, September 23, 3:00 p.m.

(As prepared)

Dear 2014 Self-Help Grant Recipients,

It is my honor to welcome you here today to the signing ceremony for the Ambassador's Special Self Help Program and the Democracy and Human Rights Fund.

The **Ambassador's Special Self-Help Program** solicits proposals for small projects that help to improve social services, foster greater autonomy and improve the welfare of local communities. This year's Self Help Program will support two projects:

- the Lar Bethel Fonte da Vida Orphanage in Bissau, and
- a water and sanitation project in the Masonca community.

In **Mansoa**, we are helping to improve water and sanitation facilities that will prevent water-borne diseases, which will significantly improve health care in this community.

Our grant providing furniture and equipment to the **Lar Bethel Fonte da Vida Orphanage** will enhance these children's living conditions.

The **Democracy and Human Rights Fund** provides assistance to civil society organizations or Community-Based Organizations for small, short-term, highly-targeted activities in support of human rights and democratic institutions. This year, we are pleased to partner with **Voz di Paz** in promoting responsible and active citizenship.

On behalf of the U.S. Embassy in Senegal, I would like to thank each recipient for the time dedicated towards developing your communities. I wish you great success in implementing your projects. I also look forward to celebrating your achievements with you on my next visits.